

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - March 2008

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
<b>WISCONSIN, Southeast</b>				

(WI-Z046) MARQUETTE, (WI-Z047) GREEN LAKE, (WI-Z051) FOND DU LAC, (WI-Z052) SHEBOYGAN, (WI-Z056) SAUK, (WI-Z057) COLUMBIA, (WI-Z058) DODGE, (WI-Z059) WASHINGTON, (WI-Z060) OZAUKEE, (WI-Z062) IOWA, (WI-Z063) DANE, (WI-Z064) JEFFERSON, (WI-Z065) WAUKESHA, (WI-Z066) MILWAUKEE, (WI-Z067) LAFAYETTE, (WI-Z068) GREEN, (WI-Z069) ROCK, (WI-Z070) WALWORTH, (WI-Z071) RACINE, (WI-Z072) KENOSHA	03/21/08 05:00 CST	0	Winter Storm
	03/22/08 02:00 CST	0	

The final widespread winter storm of the 2007-08 winter season affected most of south-central and southeast Wisconsin with a combination of heavy snowfalls of 6 to 18.5 inches over a 21-hour period on March 21st and 22nd. Overall, snow-water ratios were on the order of 10:1 to 12:1. The snow started off on the wet side during the pre-dawn hours and even some ice pellets mixed in during the early morning hours. As the day wore on convective bands formed which intensified snowfall rates to 1 to 2 inches per hour at times on a local basis. Thundersnow was reported. Milwaukee Mitchell Field closed down from noon through the end of the storm because the snowplow crews couldn't keep up with accumulations and occasional visibilities down to 1/8 to 1/4 mile. A couple dozen flights were canceled at Madison Truax Field. Numerous civic events, meetings, church services, and even some schools were canceled or closed. The Milwaukee metro bus system closed down during the storm. Hundreds of vehicle accidents were reported by the media with some vehicles rolling over in roadside ditches. There were probably a dozen or so accidents that resulted in minor injuries. During the last few hours of the storm the snow became drier. A severe weather spotter on the southwest side of Madison indicated that the snowflakes were big and fluffy and were piling up like feathers.

Specific snow accumulations include: 18.5" and 17.7" at two different locations in West Allis, 16.5" in Greenfield, 16.4" in Brown Deer, 16" in Hales Corner/Whitnall Park, 15.5" at Brookfield 2 NE, 15.2" in Saukville, 15.1" at Kenosha 6NW, 15" in Downtown Waukesha and Lannon, 14.8" in the Civil Town of Westford (west of Beaver Dam) and Caledonia, 14.5" at Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee, 14.9" in Richfield, 14.8" at Holy Hill 2E, 13.5" in Juneau, 14.4" in West Bend, an estimated 14" southeast of Cambria and at Milwaukee 8NW, 12" in East Troy, Paddock Lake, Union Grove and Random Lake, 11.7" in Delafield, 11.4" at Sullivan 3Se (WFO Milwaukee office), 11" at Palmyra 1SW and in Portage, 10.5" just north of Sun Prairie and in Horicon, 10.3" in Baraboo and Lake Geneva, 8 inches in Westfield, Dalton, and extreme southeast Fond du Lac County, 7" to 8" over northern Iowa County, 7.7" at Madison Truax Field (although 9" was reported on the southwest side of the city), and 6 to 7 inches across the northern parts of the counties of Lafayette, Green, and Rock Counties. During the height of the storm, sustained east-northeast winds of 15 to 25 mph were common along with occasional gusts to 30 to 35 mph. This led to blowing and drifting of the snow in open areas. Synoptically, the center of responsible low pressure tracked from the Black Hills to Omaha to central Illinois to southern Ohio.

The March 21-22nd winter storm, when combined with only one very light snowfall in April, 2008, allowed many observation sites in south-central and southeast Wisconsin to establish new all-time winter season snowfall records. In fact, most locations easily doubled their normal snowfall during the 2007-08 winter season! Included in this March 21-22 winter storm write-up is a graphic showing snowfall totals through the end of March, 2008. This graphic is attached to Dane County. A number of sites exceeded 100" by the end of March, 2008, and a couple locations went slightly over 121 inches! The total winter snowfall of 101.4" at Madison Truax Field crushed the old record of 76.1" set in the the 1978-79 winter. The 99.1" total winter snowfall at Milwaukee Mitchell Field was the 2nd highest total; falling short of the 109.8" measured in the 1885-86 winter season. The greatest 2007-08 winter season snowfall totals in south-central and southeast Wisconsin were 122.1" at the West Allis coop site and 121.6" at the Germantown coop site.

WAUKESHA COUNTY --- 2.5 ENE DOWNTOWN WAUKESHA [43.03, -88.17]			
	03/31/08 11:45 CST	25K	Lightning
	03/31/08 11:45 CST	0	Source: Newspaper

A lightning bolt struck a tree and air conditioning unit of a home in New Berlin. The current was carried into the basement of the home and the resultant fire was contained mostly in the basement. Electrical wiring was damaged. Smoke damage was noted elsewhere in the home.

WAUKESHA COUNTY --- 2.5 SW NEW BERLIN [42.95, -88.16]			
	03/31/08 11:50 CST	10K	Lightning
	03/31/08 11:50 CST	0	Source: Newspaper

A lightning strike to a radio antenna on a home on National Avenue damaged a breadmaker, interior wiring, and electrical outlets. However, there was no fire.

Scattered thunderstorms in southeast Wisconsin generated cloud-to-ground lightning strikes that resulted in structural damage or fires.

<b>KENOSHA COUNTY --- 0.5 W WHEATLAND [42.60, -88.21], WHEATLAND [42.60, -88.20], SILVER LAKE [42.55, -88.17], NEW MUNSTER [42.58, -88.23]</b>			
	03/03/08 06:00 CST	2K	Flood (due to Heavy Rain / Snow Melt)
	03/09/08 06:20 CST	0	Source: Official NWS Observations

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<p>The Fox River at New Munster rose above flood stage early on March 3rd and finally went below flood stage on March 9th. It crested at 12.01 feet at 1750 CST on March 4th, or 2.01 feet over flood stage. The typical bottom-land flooding occurred. A couple homes sustained water damage to their basement contents. Many other rivers and streams in south-central and southeast Wisconsin rose to near bankfull or almost flood stage during the period of March 3rd-9th. Additionally, many of the same rivers would rise above flood stage during the March 21st-23rd period and remain above flood stage into April, 2008.</p> <p>The combination of snow melt and rains during the period of February 29th through March 2nd forced water levels on the Fox River in western Kenosha County to exceed flood stage in early March, 2008.</p>				